

Shipping.

MACLEWEN, FRICKEL & Co.
Hongkong, 11th February, 1892. [10]

MARRIAGE:
Gauld—Swanton.—Feb. 4th, at the Union Church, Hongkong, WILLIAM GAULD, Inspector of Police, to ANNIE, relict of the late Inspector Swanton, of Hongkong.

BIRTHS.
At 85, Chapoo Road, Shanghai, on the 25th ult., the wife of THOMAS WILLIAM BOWEN, of a son.
At Shanghai, on the 26th ult., the wife of W. VAN CORBACH, Esq., of a daughter.
At the Horse Bazaar, Shanghai, on the 27th ult., the wife of BEATR EDWARD MAYNE, of a daughter.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1892.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

It is estimated that during the last 10 or 15 years the value of agricultural land in England has fallen 50 per cent. in some counties the fall is put down as 85 per cent.

A MEETING of the Diligentia Lodge of Instructors will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, on Thursday, the 10th instant, at 5 for 5:30 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

It is rumoured in shipping circles that the directors of the "Shan" line of coasting steamers have decided to replace the *Tongshan*, lost near Swatow recently, by a new 800 tons' vessel at a comparatively early date.

AMONGST the passengers by yesterday's homeward-bound steamer, the name of Dr. A. M. Cowley, who had been booked to Brisbane, and Commander E. J. Church and his aide-de-camp, Mr. G. H. Townsend, who are bound for London.

The managers of the *fanfan* den in Ah Chung Lane, to which a correspondent referred in our issue of the 27th inst., are now doing a tip-top business in a Lower Lascar Row crib. *Terms* Cash. A dollar a bid. Drinks free to losers. "Hush-money" *ad lib*!

The British steamship *Ardaye*, which arrived from Wuhu to-day, reports that she has brought back the winds and logs throughout, with no perceptible north-east current. Passed a Canadian Pacific mail steamer off Otsaku Island and a P. & O. steamer at 2 p.m. on the 2nd inst.

PETER SCHLEICK, second engineer of the Hongkong steamer *Alvina*, committed suicide at 3.30 last night in his cabin, by shooting himself through the head. Deceased, who was 30 years of age, was a German, and had been in the China coasting trade for a few years. The body was inspected by Dr. Lawson, and taken to the mortuary.

THE basis of all "vested rights" is law—the breath of the legislators of the country. "A breath can unmake, as a breath has made them." The operation of constitutional machinery is as "sacred" when it is negative and destructive as it is when it is creative and positive. There is no more to any argument than this bit of logic does not mislead.

THE Italian steamer *Bornida* arrived here this morning from Saigon under command of Mr. F. Suenli. She was not promptly arrested at the instance of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., who have a claim against her amounting to £4,500 for salvage services, as fully reported in our issue of the 26th ult., rendered by the *Wingsang* on the 27th of December last, but may be seized as the agents consider £4,500 an unreasonable claim.

THE *San Francisco Chronicle* of February 15 says:—The steamer due here from Hongkong on Thursday will probably receive more thorough sanitary inspection than any vessel that has entered this port for months. Both passengers and crew will go into quarantine if there be any trace of small-pox or other contagious diseases. The lesson of the *Rio* will not be lost. If it results in greater care in the inspection of Orientals who come out of the pest-holes of Hongkong and Canton.

THE Kowloon ferry-boat *Morning Star*, which collided with the Dock Co.'s launch *No. 8* last night, just a cable's length north of the P. & O. steamer *Ancona*, then lost alongside the Wharf and Godown Co.'s easternmost pier. The Dock Co.'s launch, which was *en route* from the Cosmopolitan to the Hugham Dock, got the worst of the collision and had to be beached near Yau-mat bay. An inquiry will be held at the Harbour Office shortly. The *Morning Star* is slightly damaged.

THE *N. C. Daily News* learns from a private source from Ichang of the 19th that the attempt there to imitate Hankow and Kinkiang in getting up a petition to Lord Salisbury against the Hunan Publications, was a failure, there being only two foreigners at that flourishing port who were in a position of sufficient independence to sign it. It appears that the date fixed for the second outbreak at Ichang, according to a placard which reached the British Consul, was Tuesday last, the 23rd. The placard, we are informed, was truly without character and spirit, but the sign was that of an educated man.

OUR Shanghai morning contemporary of the 29th ult. has the following important note in reference to affairs in the Far North:—A well-informed Chinese gentleman who has lately come down overland from Tientsin asserts that the stories with which the *Peking Gazette* has been filled of late of great victories obtained over the rebels in the north are almost entirely fictitious; that the numerous decisive actions reported have not taken place at all, the severity of the weather having made operations impossible on either side. The rebels, some twenty thousand in number, well armed, are snugly ensconced in their mountain retreats, and will assuredly break out again as soon as the weather moderates and this news is confirmed by private advices received from other sources.

SAVES THE *Sydney Bulletin*.—A large number of the Melbourne lawyers having stuck against the solicitors practicing in the higher Court as permitted by the new Act, the latter are arranging to import a consignment of cheap baristers from the "United Kingdom" on "three years' contract." They will be kept in a wooden barrack behind the Law Courts, except in vacation time, when they will be turned out into a grass paddock at Daneang. Each solicitor will brand his barlander so as to prevent one from frauds and misdeeds. The consignment will be quarantined on arrival as a precaution against pneumo-pneumonia. Any barlander found loose in the streets without a muzzle will be immediately destroyed, and the owner of each one will be required to pay a license-fee of 4s. per annum. Up to date the scheme promises well, though the first of the consignment unfortunately proved a diseased buck-jumper.

THE P. & S. N. Co.'s steamer *Nizam* left Bombay on the 1st inst.

THERE will be carbine practice for members of the Hongkong Volunteer Artillery at the police range at Kowloon on Saturday, 5th inst. Alaunch will leave Pedder's Wharf at 2.45 p.m.

ACCORDING to the *Mentour des Colonies*, timber can be taken all the way from the coast to the kin duty-free, while the same timber grown in French Cochina-China would have to pay 100 per cent. in duties before it could get into Tonkin.

WE are informed by the General Agent of the Canadian Pacific Company that the silk carried by the *Empress of China* to Vancouver was delivered at New York yesterday.—Quick work in the depth of winter.

THE British surveying-vessel *Penguin* and the steamer *Batavia* came out of dock to-day, thereby making room for the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha's chartered steamer *Charter Towers* which is going to have a general clean up.

WE hear that the Scottish Oriental Steamship Co.'s well known Bangkok trader *Draughton*, Captain P. H. Loff, which has been running between Singapore and New Guinea for the past three months or so, under German charter, likely to figure amongst the arrivals here at a not far distant date.

THE Band of the 1st Shippahire L.I. will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess this evening, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Overture	"La Joyeuse"	Kaleida
Reminiscences of	"Offenbach"	Waterbottom
Value	"Rus is Place"	Waldried
Passé Plein	"La Basocha"	Message

YESTERDAY morning H.M.S. *Alacrity*, Captain Chas. H. Adair, cast off from her moorings and proceeded to Gas Rock, carrying his Hon. and Excellent Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, P. C. H. Hastings, Rt. Comd. R.N., Harbour-master. The Lighthouse, now nearly complete, was inspected, and the party returned to Hongkong about 6 p.m.

WHEN will the Australian democracies learn, remarks a Sydney contemporary, that one of the essential principles of democracy is simplicity of life? A fat salary granted to any public official—be he Governor, Judge or an indispensable dignity's associate, the hangman—is a disgraceful parasitic German or whatnot, and the child born of the *Ratons* between aristocracy and wealth. To attach "allowances" to the emoluments of any post on the plea that adequate representation of its duties demands exceptional expenditure is to subsidise caste and privilege.

IT is instructive to read that Queen Victoria has been inducted into the British throne 53 years, and during that period the nation has paid her (with compound interest) at the very least 110 millions, while the sums paid to her off-spring, pensioners, descendants, parasites, German or whatnot, and the child born of the *Ratons* between aristocracy and wealth. To attach "allowances" to the emoluments of any post on the plea that adequate representation of its duties demands exceptional expenditure is to subsidise caste and privilege.

CAPITAL, we read, is further organising and consolidating in England. The British Shipowners' Federation wants to ally itself with the Mine-owners' Association and the Manufacturers' Union. With such a gigantic combination of taskmasters, it is considered that the capitalists would be able to pulverise the wage-carriers and defeat even a universal strike. So they might, under ordinary conditions. But these two massed foes confronting each other would present in actual form the paradoxical problem of an industrial incentive to luxury and blood. There could be only one outcome to such a position, and that is the physical outburst of the masses, a revolution, in which organised capitalism would be broken up and swept away by a blood-red blizzard. When both sides are fully organised the whitewind must come along.

AN adjourned meeting of the Hongkong Athletic Club was held yesterday. Dr. Atkinson presiding. The opinion was strongly expressed that the subscription must be lowered, and that something must be done to return for it. Mr. Leach said probably the new committee would attend to that. The committee was then elected, and on the discovery that several of its members were not members of the Club, Mr. Leach said probably they would join, after the subscription had been lowered—which reduction was to be effected by those same committee men. This satisfied everybody. The Chairman said that it had been decided to hold the sports on March 12, and to round them off by a "Biscuits" and "Beer" Committee on the question of Mr. Cooper. He empowered to appoint a sub-committee to make all arrangements. This concluded the business of the meeting.

OUR "Dollar a Column" novelist has sent us three of his sleep-inspiring lucubrations, and states that they are all drawn from one drama in real life; each of the alleged novelettes is complete in itself, and yet each is but one chapter in the history of the world. He has admitted, however, to which comes first, and on examination of them it looks as though he didn't really know himself. Each one is bad enough to be left till last—very much last. Still, the *Telegraph* gives such a lot of good reading, that a little of this sort now and then is useful, and will by contrast heighten the brilliance of the really high class literature. On Saturday, therefore, will appear the third of the "Dollar a Column" series—*the Pardon of the Bitter* or *the Calamity of the Putt* or *the Man that was a Terrible Threat*; or who wrote the Letters? On March 10 to the sequel (if it really is the sequel)—"The Man that Struck O'Hara; or Who flew at Brick?"

Look out for to-morrow's issue.

AN ordinary meeting of the Sanitary Board was held this afternoon. The Registrar-General presided and there were also present the Surveyor-General, the Captain Superintendent of Police, the Colonial Surgeon, Messrs. Francis, Humphreys, Ede, and Woo Lin Yuen. It was agreed to authorise Mr. Crook to examine houses and grant certificates under the Building Ordinances of 1874. It was also agreed that the Board should agree to recommend to the Government that the whole control of the public latrines, except the collection of rents, be turned over to the Board. A long dispute ensued on the request of the Government that the Board make arrangements and procure calves for the workings of the Vaccine Institute. Ultimately it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. Cooper, that the Colonial Secretary be informed that the Board had no objection to Mr. Ladd's procuring calves and apparatus, but would point out that the Board has no funds to meet expenses. On the question of the distasteful and raising of the Chinese dead, the offer of Mr. Francis to draft an Ordinance for approval was accepted with thanks. A notification was read of a case of small-pox on the steamship *Agata* yesterday. The President welcomed Mr. Woo Lin Yuen back to the Board, and the Board adjourned for a fortnight.

The Earl of Leicester alone, of all Elizabeth's Court, declined to express admiration at the beauty of Sir Walter Raleigh in throwing his cloak into the mud so that her Majesty's feet would not be wet.

"Why are you so glum over this, Leicester?" asked Ben Jonson; "Not jealous, I hope?"

"Not at all," returned the Earl; "but it was my cloak."

WHEN the Arkansans Gintess, with Sells' Circus, boarded the *Monowai*, at 'Erisco, en route for Sydney, she went and saw the 54-foot berth which had been allotted to her 8-ft. 2-inches of length. Then she hastened up to the captain and asked him where she was to sleep. "Sleep?" answered Captain Mick Carey, "why, the only thing I can think of is the mainmast. I'll order that to be slung aloftships as a hammock for you!"

When he heard that the German Consul at Amoy recently endeavoured to prevent the mate of the bark *Baruto* from joining the Chinese transport *Fuchiu* as second officer, although the captain of the bark had no objection to his subordinate thereby improving his position. The officer in question has, we hear, appealed the case to Berlin, and protested against the balance of his wages, \$50, being retained by the Consul. He has also been called in the *Fuchiu*, and proposes to stop there, despite the objections of the representative of the Fatherland.

THE *Saigon Tribune* says that by reason of the reduction in the price of opium imported into the French colonies this year, rendered necessary by repeated losses, the total receipts for January were only \$138,137, against \$140,000 in January last year, thus giving a much larger consumption but a much less profit. Instead of \$105,000 going to the revenue as clear profit, only \$69,000 is made, and the only advantage is that about double the quantity of poison has been sold, and Annamite degradation has received a smart filip.

THE well-nigh interminable Excise Office—Police assault case, which has occupied the attention of Mr. Wise for some weeks past, was "on" this afternoon. Mr. E. Robinson summed up for prosecution in a speech which lasted fully two hours, after which Mr. Dennis stated that he would finish up on Tuesday afternoon next. The Magistrate promptly agreed to this, adding that he would then be prepared to give his decision, as he would study the "deps" on Sunday—instead of going to hear old Boredom, eh!

ONE dark and stormy night recently a travelling company were billed to play some blood-and-thunder melodrama in a country town in New South Wales. When the show should have commenced, the manager found that the audience consisted of one solitary man in the "boob" place. The manager was offered his money back, but he refused it and insisted on his rights, saying he had ridden 30 miles and lamed his favourite mare, in response to an invitation contained in the management's circular, and he would see the show. The law was on his side, and the company was compelled to act. All the artists decided to do their very slummiest and worst, which caused the audience to exercise his critical right, and he hissed like 17 different kinds of ganders. Then a happy thought struck the manager, who offered his money back, and when he arrived had his audience ejected from the theatre for disturbing the performance. Then the manager and the leading lady went and liquidated the receipts, while "props" looked up the theatre.

THE U.S.S. *Alliance* had an unpleasant experience when leaving, or rather attempting to leave, Yokohama on the 26th February. The vessel, which was bound for China, left her moorings about 6 o'clock in the morning. Shortly afterwards it was seen that she was dangerously close in shore, and about 9.15 she ran head-on to the breakwater, about 300 feet inside the green buoy which marks the outer edge of the breakwater; she grounded, lying between the buoy and a pontoon, and the breakwater above high water mark. The danger into which the American cruiser was running seems to have attracted the attention of the officers of H.M.S. *Mercury* before the accident occurred, for her launch alongside the *Alliance* in a trice. She ran out a heavy sheet-anchor and hawser, and later on the Canadian Pacific and the Harbour Works lugs also went to her aid. For several hours she remained in her unpleasant position, but at 7.45 p.m. she was floated off. The vessel was then placed under survey, and in all probability the steel and copper will be found to have sustained some damage as she was moving at the rate of four knots an hour when she took the ground.

THE TWO ANGELS.

God called the nearest angels who dwell within Him above—
The tenderest one was Pity, the dearest one was Love.

"Arise," He said, "my angels! a wall of words and sin
"Steals through the gates of heaven, and suddenly
all within.

"My harps take up the mournful strain that from a
lost world's torments wells;
"Thesmoest of torment clouds the light and blight
the asphodels.

"Fly downward to that under-world, and on its
souls of pain
"Let Love drop smiles of sunshine, and Pity tears
like rain."

Two faces bowed before the throne, velled in
their golden hair;
Four white wings hastened swiftly down the
dark abyss of air.

The way was strange, the flight was long; a
lost angel came
Where neither east nor west, neither world, red
wrapped in rayless flame.

There Pity, shuddering, wept; but Love, with
fifth too strong for fear,
Took heart from God's almightiness, and smiled
a smile of cheer.

And lo! that tear of Pity quenched the flames
whereon it fell,
And with the sunshine of that smile, hope entered
into hell!

Two unveiled faces, full of joy, looked upward to
the throne:—
Four white wings folded at the feet of Him who
sat thereon,
And deeper than the sound of seas, more soft
than falling flake,
Amidst the hush of wing and song, the Voice
Eternal spake.

"Welcome, my angels! ye have brought a bolder
joy to heaven!
Henceforth its sweetest song shall be the song of
sin forgiven."

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

VICTORIA ENGLISH SCHOOLS.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION IN ST. ANDREWS HALL.

The annual distribution of prizes to the boys and girls in the Victoria English Schools took place in the St. Andrew's Hall to-day, H. E., the Governor and Lady Robinson were present, and a very large number of ladies and gentlemen also attended.

The proceedings opened with a very well arranged programme consisting of solo, concerted pieces, and violin and pianoforte selections.

by the children, interspersed with most admirable exhibitions of drill; the whole concluding with a well-arranged musical and spectacular piece, entitled "The Girls of the Girls."

Bishop Rainmond, after welcoming His Excellency and Lady Robinson, said the school had made great progress during recent years, and was now, in respect to the girls at least, unsurpassed in the Colony. The results of the last examination were well worthy of recognition. The school was now under most able management, the boys under Mr. Braidwood, M.A., then read his report, which stated that in the report for 1886 (in December of which year he took charge) the numbers of children who passed the examination were—boys, 9; girls, 17; total, 26. At the last examination, in 1887, the numbers were—boys, 50; girls, 25; total, 75. At present the average of the girls was 110. Out of the 75 children entered for examination last year, not a single one had failed in the standard work; there were very few failures in special subjects among the boys, and none at all among the girls. The report of Dr. Eitel, the Government Inspector, stated that so far as the examination was concerned this school was the best of its kind in the Colony. Mr. Allison, while the seventh standard was especially felt in the school this year, for there were nine girls and nine boys who could not enter for the sixth standard, having already passed it. The results of the Bellios competition were not declared yet, but it was confidently expected that last year's record would be repeated this year, in the Girls' department at any rate, all the prizes having then come to this school. In June, 1891, the school was removed to larger and more suitable premises, where the girls and boys had separate entrances, and different streets, and were kept entirely apart. The benefits of the playground, which was used for military drill, had been highly appreciated. It was stated that the "grant in aid" system was soon to be revised, and he hoped that it might be made to include drawing and singing, to which, as would be noticed, the school had already devoted considerable attention. The singing they had just heard, and he requested the ladies and gentlemen present, after the school proceedings, to look at the specimens now hanging on the wall of the room, both of maps and drawings, executed by the children, which would well repay the trouble of inspection. The heartiest thanks of the school managers were due to a journalist of this Colony for four prizes given for proof-correcting, two for boys and two for girls; and also to the Hon. E. R. Bellios, the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Mr. C. J. Holliday, Mr. J. J. Francis, Mr. W. H. Apples, Mr. A. G. Romano, Mr. W. C. M. Thomas, Messrs. H. G. MacCallum, Mr. C. M. B. Bate, and Mr. Kinghorn, who contributed prizes.

His Excellency then distributed the prizes, after which he said:—Ladies and Gentlemen, I suppose I am expected as usual to say a few words, and first I would thank the Bishop for kindly asking myself and Lady Robinson here to-day, and I think I may on behalf of you all express our thanks to the masters, mistresses and children who have given us this very capital entertainment they have given us. I may say, it is worthy of being produced in this City Hall. (Cheers.) Where everything was so well done it would perhaps be invidious to make comparisons, but on the old principle, *place aux dames*, I think the "Waxworks" exhibition, recalling as it did the pleasures of our childhood to us, and the songs by Miss Lament, were of a more worthy character. The ladies and gentlemen of the musical family, which contained some of the best and most accomplished musicians in this island. (Applause.) Her voice is well worth careful cultivation; but she must not run away with the idea that she is a good singer yet, for a great deal of hard work is needed before that can be said. The musical drill, too, was admirable. I am a thorough believer in physical drill myself—I see Mr. Francis is working hard at me, and I believe he too is a thorough believer in physical exercises. I approve of the old maxim, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"—and there is nothing better than *mens sana in corpore sano*. A careful arrangement of physical drill with intellectual studies is a matter on which the greatest stress should be laid. The boys performed their exercises admirably, and their exhibition reflects the greatest credit on the master and the assistant master, who brought them up to such a high standard of excellence. (Loud cheer.) I have no doubt some of the boys, being considered by a Committee at this moment, and they may look on this school as a fair recruiting ground for our gallant defenders. (Cheers.) I have only one complaint to make on this occasion—I have not been furnished with a copy of the report which has just been read by the head master, so that I have nothing to go upon—no peg to hang my hat upon, so to speak—but in listening to his report, I have been very much pleased for this school the highest position in the Colony especially for girls. Lady Robinson will be very pleased to hear that, for she has a high opinion of the value of women's education. As to the report of the Government Inspector of Schools, I can only say that you boys and girls in this school must be warmly congratulated on the very high standard attained; and if you go on as you have done, not remaining satisfied with what you have accomplished, but striving to improve still further, you will be sure to receive the very grateful notice to your masters and mistresses for the care bestowed upon you. A great deal depends, of course, upon the masters in these schools, and from what we have seen to-day we may consider that this school is very well provided for in that respect. (Loud cheers.) One always ought to recollect that

(This address forms the common mind;
Just the only best, the new's laid out.)

The masters have a great influence for good or evil, and what is exercised every moment of the day. The school has been very fortunate, in that it has been managed for the last twenty years by the Venerable Bishop Rainmond—(applause)—for more than any one else in Hongkong, I believe, has his Lordship devoted himself to the education of the young. (Cheers.) Happy I say, is the school whose masters and managers feel keenly that their pupils look up to them, as to what is best, what is honest, pure and upright, happy and good. The children are insensible to all influence, but what is true, and wise, and of good repute. The children who come from this school should set a very bright example to all their comrades, and show how they have been improved in every way by the school's discipline, and by the influence of the example of their teachers, and by the favourable conditions which surrounded them. I am sure I express what you all feel, in saying that the Victoria English Schools will have a bright future before them, and will always merit with as great success as they have done to-day. (Loud applause.)

The boys then gave cheers for the Queen, the Governor and Lady Robinson, the donors of prizes, and (on the call of the Governor) for Bishop Rainmond.

The proceedings then terminated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by
Correspondents in this column.)

THE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR,—Being very much interested in all athletics, and knowing that our sports will be in evidence here on the 14th inst., I have made enquiries as to the entries for the same, and to my utter astonishment find that our Police are not entered for the tug-of-war. How is this? I believe it from a good and reliable source that it is on account of the men not being allowed to practice on the grass plot in front of the Central Station; whence does this piece of petty tyranny emanate, but? surely not from the Acting Dominion of the Force.

Talking of this grass plot, Sir, it has been used as a practice ground, to my own personal knowledge, for the last 9 or 10 years, and on inquiry amongst the men, I find that this is the first time it has ever been refused them. Why so? They tell me that if they are allowed to exercise they will pull any team of eight men in China. The Sikh constables are allowed to wrestle, put the shot, &c., on this ground without any interference whatever, so why should our boys from beyond the Tweed be debarred? As you know, sport in this colony is very scarce, and what there is should be promoted in every way.

I sympathize with our local "peelers," and I am sure the majority of athletes are with me, and will conclude with a receipt—*Let those concerned take note.*

Thanking you for granting me space in your very valuable columns.

I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,
GENDARME.

Hongkong, March 4th, 1893.

THE WRECK OF THE "ARGYLL."

A SURVIVOR'S STORY.

A few days ago we reported that the British bark *Argyll* was wrecked near Manila and that the crew had been saved. We are now in a position to give our readers' some further particulars of the wreck of this fine ship, gathered from the reports of her officers, who together with 66 members of the crew, arrived here from Manila in the *Zafra* a day or two ago.

Our informant stated, —in response to the usual questions, that the *Argyll* was a bark of 1,175 tons register, owned by Messrs. Thompson & Co. of St. John's, New Brunswick. She was commanded by Mr. Stevens, a native of Nova Scotia, who had been in "sailers" all his life, and she carried a crew of 17, all told, including, of course, the chief officer, Mr. H. B. Malkin, an Englishman hailing from Liverpool, and 15 members of the Liverpool Marine Officers' Association.

The *Argyll* sailed from England for the Antipodes a few months ago and reached her destination without mishap of any kind. After discharging her cargo at Melbourne it was found that a good deal of money would be lost were she to wait for an "old-country freight," so her gallant skipper, who seems to have had "all to go" in her affairs, decided to accept a charter from Newcastle to S.W. to Manila with consignment. He accordingly filled out his "Newcastle letter," and spreading his wings bounded over the foaming billows of the trackless main, sometimes at 5 knots at other times "cracking on" gunwales under, and scudding along at a 13.2 pace under close-reefed topsails with the proverbial "handkerchief" on the mizen top-mast stay, until reaching Manila, when the favouring breeze became irregular, the sky threatening rain from Newcastle was blown as thick white thunder pealed and lightning flashed with terrible rapidity and startling brilliancy. It was soon only too clear to the "sea-dogs" of the watch that a terrific storm was on them, for the glass had fallen rapidly. Higher and higher rose the sea, tumbling about in a confused mass, while the wind, which blew with terrific violence, chopped about in a manner which left no doubt that the bark had run into a typhoon. But she braved it out, and after the typhoon had spent its fury Manila was only reached with the loss of only a few sails and the family "grunter."

Then the cargo was discharged and the *Argyll* loaded up 2,000 tons of sugar for home, and about the end of January shaped a course for Montreal. The captain, apparently bent on record-breaking, set his course through Balabac Straits (Inner track), which he was negotiating on Feb. 12 at the rate of 24 knots, when an awful crash was heard at about 10 a.m. and the *Argyll* was piled up on an ice reef, where she speedily became a total wreck. The crew first sighted an island and a portion of the effects in the ship's hold, and finding first of all on the island of Asule, and thence sailing on to the port of Balabac, a distance of 40 miles. A passage was there obtained in a Spanish coasting steamer bound to Manila whence they all, save the captain, came on to Hongkong.

Our informant says that the part of the Sula Sea where the *Argyll* struck is incorrectly marked on the charts, which show 60 fathoms where in fact the water is only 30 fathoms, as a matter of fact in the sea, but 60 fathoms of water there, in the deepest bay. This statement has, we understand, been corroborated by the Captain of a Spanish cruiser who was in Balabac at the time the shipwrecked mariners arrived there.

The *Argyll* was not insured, and as no Court of Inquiry was held at Manila it is probable that the wreck will form the subject of an exhaustive inquiry in Hongkong as soon as Capt. Stevens comes to trial. The vessel was drawing 22' 6" at the time she stranded, and besides the master there was only one certificated officer on board, Mr. H. B. Malkin of Liverpool. The boatswain, Hucking, acted as second officer of the ill-fated vessel. The ship and cargo must have been worth fully seventy thousand dollars, and there seems to be little prospect of saving much.

NOTES FROM NATIVE PAPERS.

The alleged *Kolao* member, Li Kuei-chien, will, it is reported, be deprived of his rank before being brought up for trial. The authorities are determined to get at the truth, whatever it may be.

The inspection of the city walls of Soochow by H.E. the Governor in person has caused some dismay that such a sight as the Treasurer's guards saw, several men leaping over the walls and that this report alarmed the Governor. Others say that the Governor intends to repair the walls and was examining the extent of the damage to be made good. The latter explanation seems reasonable.

It is rumored that the late General Li Sze-ching had over one hundred adopted sons, among whom were two Li Hung-s and one in the ranks of the other in the late service. The one who adopted the profession of arms has been made a general for distinguished services. He is now in hiding either in Shantung or Fungtien. The authorities are now searching for him among the different camps and garisons in those regions. Whether both these Li Hung-s are connected with the *Kolao* list, or only one is known, we do not know, which, no one seems to know.

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